

Meeting Date: March 6, 2007

Agenda Item No. 11

Agenda Item: Big Game: Deer, Elk, Pronghorn, Bear, Mountain Lion (Action) **Approved by:** _____

Prepared by: Brad Compton

Background:

Staff will present deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion season recommendations for 2008/2009. A summary of recommended changes includes:

DEER

- Recommend changes consistent with the new mule deer management plan.
- Increase 'quality' and 'high-quality' mule deer hunting opportunity.
- Reduce antlerless mule deer hunting opportunity to address population changes and new mule deer management direction
- Adjust antlerless white-tailed deer hunting opportunity to address depredations (Clearwater & Upper Snake regions) and anticipated over-winter survival (Panhandle Region).
- Convert short-range weapon hunts to muzzleloader only.
- Provide additional youth opportunity.

ELK

- Reduce antlerless hunting opportunity to address population declines.
- Increase antlerless hunting opportunity to address depredations in the Clearwater Region.
- Adjust antlered controlled hunt permit levels in response to population changes.
- Convert short-range weapon hunts to muzzleloader only.
- Provide additional youth opportunity.

PRONGHORN

- Provide additional youth opportunity.

BLACK BEAR

- Increase hunting opportunity in Upper Snake Region.

MOUNTAIN LION

- Standardize dogs-prohibited season dates in Southeast Region.

Policy issues:

Idaho Statute 36-104 authorizes the Commission to establish rules for the taking of wildlife consistent with state policy. Species management plans provide Commission direction for population and harvest management.

Public Involvement Process:

The recommendations have resulted from year-round public involvement and have been scoped internally and with the public through regional meetings and the website.

Staff Recommendations:

Preliminary recommendations are attached. Final Department recommendations, after considering public input, will be provided during the presentation. Staff recommends Landowner Appreciation Program hunts and permit levels be consistent with, and proportionate to, Commission adopted changes in regular controlled hunts and permit levels.

Justification:

Commission action required to adopt 2008 hunting seasons for mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, and mountain lion.